

The Punta Gorda Herald

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FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1902

The people have voted against Mr. Jones's bossism and his abstract monopoly.

It is not too early to talk about being represented at the State Fair at Lake City.

THE HERALD cheerfully accepts the results of Tuesday's primaries and in due season will hurrah for the nominees.

The Tropical Sun of June 27th complained that mosquitoes are making life a burden on the East Coast. Better come over to Punta Gorda where mosquitoes are but few.

The St. Augustine Record claims and shows that St. Johns county could easily produce annually \$1,500,000 worth of potatoes. At this rate the entire State could produce a crop worth \$50,000,000.

Great goodness gracious! Why didn't the Times-Union and Citizen issue a newspaper instead of an anti-disseminator dogger last Sunday? Or why didn't it issue a square out-and-out prohibition newspaper?

Now that good men have been nominated for the offices and the country saved, let's turn our attention to telling about the incomparable advantages of Florida and advising the legislature how to dispose of that Indian war fund.

Participants in the Seminole Indian wars from 1849 to 1858, inclusive, are eligible for pensions under the law recently enacted by Congress and the benefit extends not only to survivors but to the widows of those who have died.

Will the present secretary of the Florida Press Association please state to the public whether the accounts of his immediate predecessor have ever been settled? If not, how do they stand, and who was his immediate predecessor?

The fact that one short railroad has handled nearly a thousand cars of fruit and vegetables is ample evidence to prove that the people of Florida are no longer dependent upon one crop or industry. With diversified crops and good roads, a bright future is dawning before us.

—Palatka Times-Herald.

The defeat of an individual may not have any significance, but the denial of a right does. Punta Gorda asked that her right to be represented on the county school board be recognized. This was refused because it was thought her candidature was too young in citizenship. But the right to representation remains and will be demanded again too years hence.

If a shipper or consignee or passenger has been overcharged by a railroad company, he need only address a letter to the commission at Tallahassee, stating his complaint in his own way. In ordinary cases the services of a lawyer are quite superfluous, and the only expense to be incurred by the complainant would be a few cents for postage.—Sentinel Reporter.

The Florida Baptist, published at Wauchula, took an active part in the late political contest with the usual result. From a communication from S. W. Wadsworth naming Messrs. Griffin, Altman and Ware as his choice for county commissioners, the Baptist is charged with having intentionally omitted the name of Mr. Altman. Such things often happen in the political departments of religious (?) newspapers.

A few Florida newspapers are troubled because of the thousands of foreign immigrants arriving in New York, none come South. We think nobody need worry about this, for we prefer that most foreigners should go West and get Americanized before coming South. Fact is, we would not give one good Western American that is, one man from Michigan, Indiana and that group of States, for twenty Poles, Hungarians or Italians.

The preacher politicians of DeSoto were conspicuous by their activity in the late campaign. They may have been moved by the Biblehead suggestion, "Behold, how pleasant it is for brethren to pull together;" but if they are not careful, they may "rile" some sinner into an investigation of their records. And it has sometimes been found, upon close scrutiny, that a few preachers, especially those who dabble in specific politics, are no better than other men.

OBJECTION TO A PRIMARY.

While every true Democrat has cheerfully obeyed this year the party law ordering a primary for State and county officers, neither disloyalty nor rebellion should be charged against any one pointing out objections to this system of making nominations.

Perhaps the most serious objection has already manifested itself in restricting the choice of the people to a very few candidates for State and federal offices. The heavy expense of entering the primary doubtless deterred some men from becoming candidates whom the people might have preferred to those who did. This, besides the popularity of the aspirants, may account for the fact that Messrs. Mallory, Sparkman and Davis had no opposition and that, with the exception of railroad commissioner, there were but few candidates for State offices.

Such a condition of things leaves "Hopson's choice" for the people, which remark must not be construed in disparagement of the candidates of the late primary, who, fortunately for the State, were all good men and capable. But when the next time comes, this may not be the case, and we may have some really undesirable aspirants.

The sum and substance of this objection is that many excellent men of limited means cannot afford to enter a State primary and the people consequently are restricted in their choice.

Regarding the expense, it may be mentioned incidentally that, in the late campaign, some of the newspaper folks thought that every State candidate should have had his paid announcement in all the newspapers, a matter that would have cost him \$1,500.00, to say nothing of his traveling expenses in campaigning and his assessment to pay for printing tickets and conducting the primary.

For nominating county candidates, the primary is liable to no serious objection, even though in rare instances fraud might be perpetrated in manipulating the ballots and conducting the final count.

The convention plan is open to the objection that it admits of trading and other reprehensible methods, but this may be urged against our whole scheme of representative government. It seems, however, that notwithstanding the meanness that may be perpetrated, the convention is better than the primary for the nomination of State and federal candidates.

The fact of the matter is that no human scheme has yet been devised which is perfect in all its details and all that we can do is to adopt that which has the fewest objections and promises to give the most general satisfaction.

NOT ELECTED.

Who would have thought that the witty editor of the Punta Gorda Herald, Col. A. P. Jordan, was achieving a candidate? He has been writing about and associating with candidates so much that he could not resist the temptation, so he came out as a candidate for the school board, and of course he will be elected.—Alachua Inquirer.

But he was not, and this may excuse an explanation. His candidacy was by no means personal. Its meaning was simply and solely a request by Punta Gorda to be represented on the school board, to which she is entitled by reason of having the largest school in the county. This was not clearly understood by the people, who regarded the candidacy as personal.

Nobody else in Punta Gorda could be induced to run. At the time, it was thought that there would be no other candidate in this district; but Hon. John L. Jones of Arcadia, seeing a chance to punish the man who was diligently exposing his political designs, got up a strong petition inducing Mr. J. O. Carr, one of the oldest citizens and best men in the county, to run against the Punta Gorda candidate. If the latter had known Mr. Carr was going to run, he would not have consented to enter the race, for the veriest political tyro would have known that a citizen of less than a year could not defeat a man of Mr. Carr's standing. Of course Mr. Carr was elected, but the rest of Mr. Jones's candidates were "routed, horse, foot and dragons." That's glory enough for Punta Gorda's "migratory editor."

A POLITICAL COUP.

People last week were much puzzled at finding in the county papers a communication favoring Mr. Hollingsworth for collector and in the same papers an answer advocating Mr. Durrance. How the letter and its answer could both appear in the same paper at the same time without editorial treachery to Mr. Hollingsworth, was a mystery. But it has since been discovered that the coup was accomplished by Arcadian statesmanship (?), which knows no bounds. Financiering skill is thought to have had something to do with it.

Arcadia's journalistic ethics are surely above the trickery or venality that would betray confidence in such a matter. But it is up to some one in Arcadia to explain how this thing happened. No body blames Mr. Durrance's friends for taking advantage of somebody else's treachery, for this is permissible in love, war and politics; but whoever knowingly permitted Mr. Durrance's friends to see and read the communication favoring Mr. Hollingsworth before it appeared in print, as was done, has a queer sense of honor. He may have thought it a good joke to play, but conscientious people will look upon it from a serious moral standpoint.

TUESDAY'S PRIMARY.

Results in State and County Landslide to Gilchrist.

MR. JONES'S CANDIDATES SKEWERED UNDER.

The primary election held throughout the State, Tuesday, to nominate candidates to be voted for in the general election in November, resulted in the selection of the following: For United States Senator—S. R. Mallory (to be ratified by the legislature next April).

For Congressman—First district, S. M. Sparkman; second district, Robt. W. Davis; third district, W. B. Lamar.

For Supreme Judge—Wm. A. Hocker.

For Comptroller—A. C. Croom.

For Secretary of State—H. Clay Crawford.

For Railroad Commissioners—R. Hudson Burr, Jeff B. Brown.

For State Attorney 6th Judicial Circuit—H. S. Phillips.

FOR COUNTY OFFICERS:

Representative in the legislature—A. W. Gilchrist.

Collector—J. D. Southerland.

Assessor—Francis M. Cooper.

Treasurer—Finis E. Parker.

Supervisor of Registration—Henry A. Ellis.

Members of the School Board—Cyrus Jones, Robt. E. Whidden, J. O. Carr.

County Commissioners—District 1, second race between Ed F. Bostick and Wm. J. Altman. District 2, Neil C. Larsen. District 3, second race between H. A. Ware and A. C. Freeman. District 4, W. W. Langford. District 5, Wm. King.

COUNTY TOTALS.

The vote on the State ticket was: Mallory 500, Sparkman 901, Wall 382, Hocker 297, Crawford 462, Croom 365, McCall 222, Browne 185, Burr 272, Day 256, Ward 167, Whitner 139, Turman 314, Phillips 416.

It will thus be seen that THE HERALD's forecast last week that Phillips would carry the county, proved correct. THE HERALD supported Turman, Hocker, Croom and Burr; two received the county's endorsement and two did not.

Eighteen precincts, which include Punta Gorda and Arcadia, gave Gilchrist 555, Johnson 267. Gilchrist carried all of these except Arcadia and Zolfo. Arcadia gave him 85 to 109 for Johnson and Zolfo 7 to 28. Precincts to hear from will increase Gilchrist's majority. These are Bassenger, Fort Green and Horse Creek. This is what the preacher politicians and Mr. Jones did for Johnson.

Above precincts give Southerland 411, Durrance 292, Hollingsworth 140, leaving Southerland only one vote behind. The three precincts not heard from will give majorities for Southerland.

For assessor—Cooper 421, Hagan 379. Treasurer—Parker 478, Hendry 305.

School board—Jones 455, Whidden 445, Carr 416, Jordan 225, Albritton 292.

County commissioners—Dist. 1, Bostick 328, Altman 174, Mason 95, Bryan 61. Dist. 2, Larsen 555.

Dist. 3, Ware 233, Freeman 215, Concepcion 136, Morgan 107.

Dist. 4, Langford 541, Coker 98.

Dist. 5, King 355, Griffin 288.

From the above, it will be seen that most of the favorite candidates of Hon. John L. Jones were defeated, but he has his revenge in the defeat of the Punta Gorda candidate for the school board. Even this small satisfaction would have been denied him, if any old citizen of Punta Gorda could have been prevailed upon to run.

Mr. Johnson, who was actively supported by Mr. Jones and the preacher politicians, suffered a worse defeat than the opposition anticipated. He was beaten more than two to one. Mr. Jones lost also Messrs. Hendry and Griffin, and in the August primary he will lose Mr. Ware, and his friendship may also compass the final defeat of Mr. Bostick.

While the people may not pay much attention to what is said by any one of the three "migratory editors" of the county, it is quite evident that they do not care to have Hon. John L. Jones tell them how and for whom they should vote. But they have endorsed nearly the entire ticket that was supported by THE HERALD.

VOTE OF PUNTA GORDA.

Total number polled 174; 9 thrown out for irregularities.

U. S. Senator—Mallory 92.

Congressman—Sparkman 108.

Supreme judge—Wall 79, Hocker 38.

Secretary of State—Crawford 78.

Comptroller—McCall 71, Croom 44.

Railroad Commissioners—Burr 31, Day 42, Brown 54, Ward 50, Whitner 11.

State attorney—Phillips 79, Turman 41.

Representative—Gilchrist 148, Johnson 8.

Collector—Southerland 76, Durrance 43, Hollingsworth 83.

Assessor—Cooper 112, Hagan 43.

Treasurer—Parker 88, Hendry 35.

Supervisor of registration—Ellis 83.

Members of school board—Jordan 102, Carr 114, Jones 68, Whidden 66, Albritton 17.

County commissioners—Freeman 75, Concepcion 54, Ware 70, Morgan 5, Altman 40, Bostick 30, Mason 7, Langford 69, Larsen 32, Griffin 22, King 57.

The election here passed off quietly, though great interest was manifested.

In the early morning, however, Mr. J. D. Southerland, candidate for collector, had a brief, but acrimonious dispute with a citizen who had printed and distributed some circulars reflecting upon Mr. S.'s competency and political record, and for a moment a collision was threatened, but a peripatetic angel of peace and pranks politics from Nocatee interposed and prevented actual hostilities. It is hoped that the good vote Mr. Southerland got here has soothed his ruffled feelings.

The size of the vote given Mr. Durrance was a surprise to many, who thought that Mr. Hollingsworth would lead both here and elsewhere in the county.

The record shows that Punta Gorda had friends for all the candidates and it is, therefore, hoped that all will cherish a kind feeling for DeSoto's generous sea-port.

Tuesday night the usual crowd gathered at the polls and at the telegraph office; to learn the result. By 10:30, it was known positively that Gilchrist had won and most of the other winners were ascertained, whereupon the crowd dispersed, all seemingly well satisfied with the day's events.

Latest!

[Special to THE HERALD]

TAMPA, July 17, 10:30 a.m.—For supreme judge—Hocker 10,832, Wall 9,281, Comptroller—Croom 10,774, McCall 9,240.

Railroad commissioners: Burr 9, 970, Browne 8,220, Ward 7,777, Whitner 6,703, Ward 4,422.

Election of Hocker, Croom, Burr, Browne and Lamar conceded.

Phillips carries every county in the circuit by 2500 majority.

Col. S. L. Varnado, one of Tampa's most prominent citizens, died this morning.

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